appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated 13th July, 1998, regarding the proposed army and naval exercises between India and the US which have been put on hold following nuclear tests but those with Pakistan will be held as scheduled next months, as per Washington Post report;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken/ proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Consequent upon the underground nuclear explosions undertaken by India on May 11 and 13, 1998 the spokesman of the US Department of Defence announced cessation of all military exchanges and training exercises with India. In the light of this announcement, no armed force or defence-related exchanges with the USA, including joint naval exercises, are anticipated in the foreseeable future. the daily "Washington Post" has allegedly reported that US military exercises with Pakistan will take place as scheduled in August, 1998. Government of India will take a view on the resumption of military exchanges and exercises with USA after it takes the initiative to re-establish all streams of defence cooperation with India.

Think Tank Organisation

4616. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of think tank organisations India have on national security on the lines of USA, which has a developed think tank culture regarding strategic planning relevant to national security and at China, which has been able to develop strong think tanks;

(b) the name of Indian think tank organisations, their functions and area of operation;

(c) whether Government propose to take any step to further promote the think tank organisations relevant to national security; even in non-Governmental organisations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There are numerous organisations in India which focus on national security matters wholly or in part including the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), the United Services Institution of India, the Forum for Strategic and Security Studies, the Centre for Policy Research, the Institute for Chinese Studies, the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, the Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies and the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government endeavour to encourage the activities of think tank organisations through several deliberate measures such as financial assistance, promoting linkages with counterpart organisations, involvement in events like seminars and symposia, etc.

(e) Does not arise.

Indo-Russian defence cooperation

4617. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have finalised a new 10th Year defence cooperation agreement; and

(b) if so, the broad features of the new cooperation agreement, especially relating to hardware supplies, technology transfer and joint ventures?